

FORWARD NEW RICHMOND

August 21, 2019

Meeting Minutes

Heather McAbee called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

Roll call was taken.

Members Present: Heather McAbee, Summer Seidenkranz, Karl Skoglund, Mike Montello, Tom Mews, Paul Mayer, Rob Kreibich, Susan Lockwood

Members Absent: Cathy Longtin

Others present: Beth Thompson, Mike Darrow, Noah Wiedenfeld, Lori Brinkman, Tom Weinmeyer, Ron Volkert, Bill Rubin, Paul Werni, Jim Zajkowski, Craig Kittel

Mike Montello moved to adopt the agenda, seconded by Summer Seidenkranz and carried.

Mike Montello moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting dated June 19, 2019, seconded by Paul Mayer and carried.

Housing Study

Based on discussion at the June FNR meeting, City staff reached out to local townships to see if there was any interest in working collaboratively on a housing study for the New Richmond area. None of the neighboring townships have expressed interest in working together on a study at this time. Beth Thompson presented a draft RFP for a housing study that City Staff prepared. Discussion followed.

Mike Montello moved to approve moving forward with the RFP for Housing Study as presented, seconded by Paul Mayer and carried.

Economic Development and Business Updates

Mike Darrow and Beth Thompson gave brief updates on the following projects:

- Beebe Building Redevelopment – podcasts of three firms and their visions have been posted
- Dance Explosion – construction complete; ribbon cutting on Sept. 5
- New Richmond Professional Building – plan to begin construction this fall
- Beth's Jewelry Shop/Hallmark – Hallmark moving out; Beth's Jewelry & Moo Jo's expanding
- Foster Place – has submitted applications for building permits for all 6 buildings (72 units)

Mike Darrow and Beth Thompson have a meeting scheduled this afternoon with Cory Larse from Phillips Medisize. FNR is hoping to hold a future meeting at the Phillip's plant as well as other local businesses.

Beth Thompson continues to follow up with contacts she and Summer made at RECon earlier this year.

Communications/Miscellaneous

- Heather McAbee and Beth Thompson attended a Housing Conference last week in Rice Lake. There were approximately 75 people in attendance, with a mixture of municipal staff, council members, financial lenders, and developers. Presenters spoke on current challenges in the housing industry as well as examples of what other communities are using as incentives to bring people and/or developers in.
- New Richmond's estimated population is now 9,322.

- We have had permits for over 100 new dwelling units so far this year.
- Rob Kreibich mentioned the NR Area Chamber has 46 new members so far this year.
- Mallards restaurant will be opening in the former Fire & Whiskey building in October.
- Craft Beer Day will be recognized September 26. There may be possible tours set up at various breweries in St. Croix County.
- There will be a customer service presentation by David Aaker held at WITC on October 17.
- Hometown Holidays will be held December 5.
- Items to be included on next month agenda:
 - Industrial Study
 - Policies driving incentives
 - Commercial development
 - Rail Project

Closed Session

Mike Montello moved to go into Closed Session by State Statute 19.85 (1)(e), seconded by Paul Mayer, and carried.

Open Session

Mike Montello moved to proceed with the land purchase request as discussed in Closed Session, seconded by Paul Mayer and carried. Tom Mews abstained.

Mike Montello moved to proceed with allowing LWT to store items on City-owned land, for 30 days, as discussed in Closed Session, seconded by Rob Kreibich and carried.

Mike Montello moved to adjourn, seconded by Summer Seidenkranz and carried.

Meeting adjourned at 1:27 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Lori Brinkman.